



Iowa Safe and Secure Communities Plan

In Iowa, 2,665 individuals were convicted of domestic assault in 2014. Of this number, 162 offenders had been convicted of this same crime for the third time, or had used strangulation in the commission of the crime. These habitual offenders are a serious threat to their victims as well as to the public. It is time to strengthen Iowa's domestic violence laws to ensure justice and better protect the victims.

For habitual offenders who commit a third act of domestic abuse, the mandatory minimum sentence should be increased from one year to three years. Increasing the penalty not only demonstrates to would-be offenders that this type of crime will not be tolerated, but also gives the victims more time to heal and move forward with their lives.

"Moving Iowa forward also means ensuring our schools and communities stay safe and our families feel protected. It means we must do more to protect victims of domestic abuse."

– Iowa Governor Terry E. Branstad, 2015 Condition of the State Address, Jan. 13, 2015

In too many instances, an offender has violated a protective order and due to lack of timely notification, dire consequences have ensued. Electronic monitoring can serve as a valuable tool to improve victim safety in cases of domestic abuse. Enacting legislation that expands the use of electronic monitoring for high-risk or habitual offenders will help to ensure a more secure environment for everyone.